

FACT SHEET

AMENDMENTS TO AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR ASPHALT PROCESSING AND ASPHALT ROOFING MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

ACTION

- On May 6, 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) amended the regulation that controls emissions of air toxics from asphalt processing and asphalt roofing manufacturing facilities.
- The final rule for asphalt processing and asphalt roofing manufacturing facilities, issued in May 2003, is based on the maximum level of control that is achievable. This level of control is commonly known as maximum achievable control technology (MACT).
- Air toxics, also called hazardous air pollutants (HAP), are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems in humans.
- The amendments correct minor errors and add an exemption inadvertently omitted in the promulgated rule. The exemption would ensure that emissions from certain processes are not considered “fuel gas” under the petroleum refinery new source performance standard.
- Asphalt processing and asphalt roofing manufacturing facilities emit a variety of toxic air pollutants. These air toxics vary by facility and process operation but may include organic compounds (including formaldehyde, phenol, hexane, and toluene) and acid gases such as hydrogen chloride. The health effects associated with exposure to these air toxics can include cancer, respiratory irritation, and damage to the nervous system.
- Today's final rule amendments will not change the health and environmental benefits of the rule, and they will not change the requirement that new and existing major sources control emissions of air toxics.
- EPA is publishing this as both a direct final rule and proposed rule. The Agency views the action as noncontroversial amendments and does not anticipate adverse comments. However, if EPA receives significant adverse comments on these amendments, we will withdraw the section(s) of the direct final rule which were adversely commented on and carefully evaluate the comments before taking any final action.

BACKGROUND

- Under the Clean Air Act (CAA), EPA is required to regulate sources of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industrial source

categories that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of listed pollutants), the CAA requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of MACT. The CAA also requires EPA to regulate area sources where an area source finding has been made due to the health effects of certain air toxics. Area sources are defined as those sources that emit hazardous air pollutants in quantities less than that of major sources.

- Air toxics are released from asphalt blowing stills, loading and storage operations, saturators, coaters, coating mixers, and sealant and adhesive applicators.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy of the amendments, go to EPA's Worldwide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/> under newly proposed or promulgated rules.
- For further information about the amendments, contact Mr. Rick Colyer of EPA's Minerals and Inorganic Chemicals Group at (919) 541-5262 or colyer.rick@epa.gov.
- EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.